

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. NUNN], for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BRADLEY, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, and Mr. COHEN, proposes an amendment numbered 4367.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. NUNN. I thank the Senator from West Virginia.

I yield the floor.

LETTING GO OF THE ONES WE LOVE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, earlier today, Senator Leahy rose to pay tribute to his late mother, Alba LEAHY, who passed away last month. It was a beautiful tribute, filled with memories about the love that his mother radiated throughout her life and about the people which that love nourished. I was moved by reading Senator LEAHY's remarks. The memories he conveyed were so vivid because, some 14 years ago, I sustained a great loss. Upon two or three occasions, I attempted to make reference to that loss and give a tribute to my departed grandson.

I came to this same Senate floor and gave a eulogy for my grandson, and it was a very difficult thing to do. And I know that Senator LEAHY's remarks today were very hard for him to deliver.

Letting go of those whom we love is one of the most trying experiences, if not the most trying experience, in human existence. But looking back over a road of 78 years, it seems to me that much of life is about the seemingly simple process of letting go. It begins early in our human experience, as we let go of the security of our mother's arms, our mother's lap, of our favorite toys—if we were fortunate enough to have any toys—of childhood friends, of the house in which we grew up, our favorite teachers, and the blissful security of being still a child.

It continues throughout life, as we let go of our youth, as we watch our children grow up, as we watch them go away, as we say our final goodbyes to our parents and other loved ones, and at last we let go even of our own earthly existence to progress along the path-way to an unknown final destination.

Somehow, although we spend our lives letting go and moving on, it never becomes any easier. The practice never seems to make perfect; never seems to ease the pain of all of the goodbyes. The best that we poor humans can do is to handle the letting go with a modicum of dignity, to soothe the outward signs of pain with ceremony and nourish the lingering void inside with the sustenance of memories.

So, today Senator LEAHY shared some of his precious memories with all

of us here in the Senate. He had told his mother that he would deliver such a eulogy. At the time he talked about it with her, he thought that the time that eulogy would be expressed was perhaps some years away. But we have no way of knowing what another day will bring forth.

He bade his wonderful mother a beautiful farewell. But, as with all farewells, things will forever be changed. There are relationships and rituals in the Leahy family often, but nothing will ever be quite the same anymore.

As Senator LEAHY and his family traverse the familiar but ever difficult process of letting go, my heart goes out to them. But, as he already knows, and as is so evident in his beautiful tribute to his mother's life, as they always do, the memories will never cease to sustain us.

Let Fate do her worst, there are relics of joy,
Bright dreams of the past, which she cannot destroy;

Which come, in the night-time of sorrow and care,
And bring back the features that joy used to wear.

Long, long, be my heart with such memories filled,
Like the vase in which roses have once been distilled,
You may break, you may shatter the vase, if you will,
But the scent of the roses will hang round it still.

Mr. LEAHY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank my dear friend from West Virginia. I have been privileged to serve with him for now 22 years, and I daresay that everything I have learned about the rules and protocol of this body I have learned from him. But I have learned far more than that.

I have learned from my good friend from West Virginia the special bond that Senators have. It really goes beyond party, or region, or anything else. And when my good friend from West Virginia, Senator BYRD, called me the weekend my mother died, when I was at my farmhouse in Vermont, his words touched me as a friend, as a Senator, as a colleague, and as one who knew my mother and knew my late father. His words were a great comfort to me and to my family at that time, as they are today.

He is right. There are times, of course, when we have to let go in our lives. I know the great tragedy that the Senator from West Virginia had in his own life more than a decade ago—almost a decade and a half ago now. I recall sitting in his office on a rainy evening once when we talked of that great tragedy. I could understand, not from a parental or grandparental feeling, but more through my own experiences as a prosecutor. I grieved for him, and I know how much he has grieved over the years since then. But I think he found during that time, and since, that it is his own friends and the words and thoughts of those friends

that helped him just as he helps me in this.

So I do thank him for doing that. I told my good friend from West Virginia that among my mother's possessions were letters that he had sent her on different occasions—birthdays, and whatnot. Among the things she had collected were speeches of his in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and poems that he had spoken.

He is the only person I have ever seen who is able to recite poetry of all types at great length with nary a note. She read those. And in the later years, when her eyes failed, I would read to her "The History of the Senate."

So, my friend, thank you.

I yield the floor.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, at the outset, I would like to add my sympathy and my condolences to my friend, Senator PAT LEAHY. I would not have known but for the eloquence of the Senator from West Virginia. Certainly, I know that all of us join in our thoughts and prayers at a very sad time.

(The remarks of Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1911 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONDEMNATION OF TERROR ATTACKS IN SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I send a Senate resolution to the desk and I ask that it be stated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows.

A resolution (S. Res. 273) condemning terror attacks in Saudi Arabia:

S. RES. 273

Whereas on June 25, 1996, a massive truck bomb exploded at the King Abdul Aziz Air Base near Dhahran, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

Whereas this horrific attack killed at least nineteen Americans and injured at least three hundred more;

Whereas the bombing also resulted in 147 Saudi casualties;

Whereas the apparent target of the attack was an apartment building housing United States service personnel;

Whereas on November 13, 1995, a terror attack in Saudi Arabia, also directed against U.S. personnel, killed five Americans, and two others;

Whereas individuals with ties to Islamic extremist organizations were tried, found guilty and executed for having participated in the November 13 attack;

Whereas United States Armed Forces personnel are deployed in Saudi Arabia to protect the peace and freedom secured in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm;